

10 June 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, D/E/RR

SUBJECT : Report on CIA Review of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM Documents for Purposes of Downgrading

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1. By memorandum of 27 May 1955 the "CIA Position on Downgrading of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM Documents" (attached) was transmitted to the Chairman, EDAC Executive Committee. The following report has been prepared to inform you of the work involved in completing this CIA review and to acknowledge the substantial contribution to this project made by [redacted] and during its latter stages by [redacted] of this Division.

2. The USNEL in Paris POLTO 861 of 11 November 1954 suggested that the EDIC examine from the intelligence standpoint this proposed downgrading of C/C/C documents. EDIC considered this suggestion in December and concluded that as a group it had no authority to approve security matters of this kind. With a view toward establishing a CIA position on this matter, Ch/C/RR (with approval of Acting Chief, D/E/RR) directed the undersigned to review the more than 3,000 documents involved and to make recommendations thereon to higher Agency authority.

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3. The undersigned, with the conscientious and untiring assistance of [redacted] devoted at least some part of each of seventy-five working days to this project between 18 November 1954 and 27 May 1955. (It might be noted that the Executive Committee and cognizant Government departments considered this problem without success during 1953 and 1954, the Department of State first having suggested the downgrading of EXCON communications, including C/C/C documents, in December 1953).


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4. This project entailed: accumulation, filing and indexing of over 3,000 documents, and identification of thirteen categories of documents (completed by [redacted]; consultation with cognizant agencies including State, EDAC, Commerce and Defense; establishment of criteria to determine selection of documents as either Secret or Confidential; conferences with AD/RR, EX/RR, the CIA Classification Control Officer, and FI/ROM, CG/C, and OCD to obtain Agency concurrence on the methodology employed in reviewing the documents; item-by-item review of 3,094 documents and selection of 1,126 as Secret; and preparation of the attached memoranda and lists.

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5. The Department of State has prepared draft instructions to Foreign Service posts on the basis of this CIA review. These instructions, and the results of the CIA review, are now awaiting Executive Committee consideration and approval.

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**Attachment**

CIA Position on Downgrading of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM Documents

D/E/RR:JAG:gg

**Distribution**

- 1 - Ch/C/RR
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